

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the above preliminary amendments are respectfully requested.

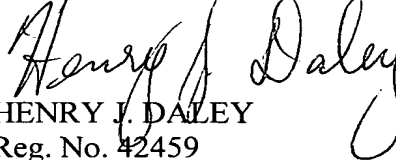
Claims 19-21 are pending in the application, claims 1-18 having been canceled and claims 19-21 having been added herein.

Applicant is looking forward to an early and favorable first Action on the merits.

Applicant's representative encourages the Examiner to call him at the number listed below if it may help advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



HENRY J. DALEY

Reg. No. 42459

Tel. No. (202) 775-9832

Fax No. (202) 833-8491

Date: October 24, 2003

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000